8000 miles covered by road. Due to time and funding constraints, animal survey comprised a smaller portion of the total. Surveys of animal populations require special expertise and permitting which is required for baiting, trapping, and animal care. A complete animal survey was not possible given the time and funding limitations of this study. Animal surveys to confirm historic species reports and focus on current target species (LeGrand and Hall 1995), were conducted from September 1996 to March 1997 by Ann Berry Somers of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Dr. Ken Bridle. Animal survey focused on, but was not limited to, wetland areas with potential for rare reptiles and amphibians.

To some extent, timing of field work was dependent on weather, size of the area to be surveyed, and the best periods to survey for rare species. While conducting these surveys, other potential sites were identified. Priorities for field survey were shifted throughout the season to adapt to changes in the above factors. Although the majority of the field work was *de novo*, some visits to previously-identified sites were also made to collect information on present site condition or to address needs for additional biological information.

Field surveys typically include information on the quality, composition, and location of natural community types; locations and population size estimates for unusual or rare species; site condition; animal habitat characteristics; a species list; within-site and off-site disturbances and threats; site boundary location and integrity; and numerous other data. The field surveys were conducted in a walk-through fashion which relies on site characteristics and indicator species to identify significant areas. Sites that were obviously in poor condition, such as those compromised by development or by relatively recent logging, often were given only cursory attention.

Information noted during the field survey for each site was recorded in a Site Survey Report, a standard form used by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NC NHP). The Site Survey Report contains the raw data collected from a site as well as an assessment of its biological significance. The process by which site biological significance is designated is outlined later this report. Occurrences of rare species (i.e., those on the NC NHP rare plant and rare animal species lists) were reported using standardized forms.

Site Survey Forms, Rare Plant Forms, and Rare Animal Forms were used to map site and rare species locations and to create permanent records in the Biological and Conservation Database (BCD) at the NC NHP in Raleigh. The NC NHP is North Carolina's primary repository for information on rare species populations and exemplary natural community types. Copies of the completed forms are kept on file at NC NHP. Map locations for rare species and sites of regional, state, and national significance are also maintained as electronic data layers in ARC-INFO format at the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, a state agency in Raleigh.